Attorney Docket:

1748X/49477

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

STEFAN BRAUCHLE ET AL.

Serial No.:

NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed:

JANUARY 16, 2001

Title:

REFORMER OF LAYERED STRUCTURE

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

January 16, 2001

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR \$1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

## STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE

The relevance of German patent document DE 197 27 589 A1 to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background and Summary of the Invention in the specification of the present invention.

Serial No. NOT YET ASSIGNED

English abstracts summarizing the disclosures of German patent documents DE 197 46 251 A1; DE 44 20 752 A1 and DE 198 32 386 A1 are submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the morits (whichever is later), and therefore no statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary R. Edwards

Registration No. 31,824

EVENSON, McKEOWN, EDWARDS

& LENAHAN, P.L.L.C.

1200 G Street, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005

Telephone No.: (202) 628-8800 Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

GRE: kms

Atty. Docket No. Serial No. Form PTO-1449 1748X/49477 NOT YET ASSIGNED U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office Applicant: Stefan BRAUCHLE et al INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary) Filing Date: Group JANUARY 16, 2001 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Sub-Examiner Document Date Name Class Filing Date Initial Number Class (if appropriate) 4,933,242 06/12/90 Koga et al 429 19 AΑ 05/14/91 422 195 AΒ 5,015,444 Koga et al AC 5,180,561 01/19/93 Morishima et al 422 191 AD ΑE AF AG AΗ ΑI ΑJ FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Sub-Date Class class Document Country Translation Yes | No 197 27 589 A1 28.6.97 Germany ΑK 0 642 184 A2 26.5.94 **EPO** AL 0 691 701 A1 AM 05.07.95 EPO 197 46 251 A1 20.10.97 Germany abstract AN44 20 752 A1 15.6.94 abstract AO Germany AP 198 32 386 A1 18.7.98 Germany abstract OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) ΑO AR AS DATE CONSIDERED EXAMINER

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EXAMINER: